

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, conducted an historic architectural survey and National Register evaluation in connection with the proposed reconstruction and replacement of Bridge 599 on Benge Road (Route 253) near Yorklyn in New Castle County, Delaware. GAI conducted the architectural survey and National Register evaluation between October and November 2000 for the Delaware Department of Transportation.

The methodology of the historic architectural survey and National Register evaluation of Bridge 599 consisted of four (4) phases:

- 1) GAI established an Area of Potential Effect (APE);
- 2) GAI conducted background research in Delaware and Washington, D.C. on the history of the Bridge 599 project area as well as on previously surveyed historic resources in the project area;
- 3) GAI conducted fieldwork on Bridge 599 and completed a *Cultural Resource Survey Structure Form* on the bridge;
- 4) GAI evaluated Bridge 599 for its eligibility for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or as a contributing historic resource in the National Register-listed Auburn Mills Historic District. GAI evaluated the National Register eligibility of Bridge 599 according to the National Register Criteria; the historic context for the Bridge 599 project area; and the bridge's structural condition and integrity.

CONCLUSIONS

GAI recommends that Bridge 599 does not possess the necessary architectural/ engineering significance and architectural integrity for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Bridge 599 is an undistinguished example of a common bridge type from this period, is in deteriorated condition, and has undergone numerous repairs over the years that have compromised its structural integrity.

GAI recommends that Bridge 599 does not possess the historical significance and architectural integrity to be considered a contributing historic resource in the Auburn Mills Historic District. Built circa 1932, Bridge 599 does fall within the period of significance for the Auburn Mills Historic District. However, the bridge is a replacement of at least one, possibly more, previous bridges over this millrace. It does not relate to the manufacturing or architecture themes that form the basis for the historic district's significance. The bridge is in deteriorated condition and lacks the necessary architectural integrity to contribute to the historic significance of the Auburn Mill Historic District.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Delaware Department of Transportation should submit this Determination of Eligibility and National Register Evaluation Report to the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with GAI's recommendations of non-eligibility for Bridge 599. It is recommended that prior to the replacement of Bridge 599, the effects of the replacement on the historic millrace first be evaluated.